

REMARKS

Applicant has filed concurrently herewith a U.S. national phase application based on International Application No. PCT/IB2003/003016. The specification and claims of the International application were amended under Article 34. (See “Amended Sheets”, attached to “International Preliminary Examination Report”, a copy of which is also being filed concurrently herewith.) In particular, page 2 of the specification was amended to cite WO 01/99348, claims 9 and 13 were amended to include reference numerals and claims 20-22 were canceled. Thus, these amendments are already present in the concurrently filed U.S. national phase application. Accordingly, the text of claims 9 and 13, as amended under Article 34, appears in the foregoing listing of claims without showing, however, by way of strike-through or underlining, the deletions or additions that were made under Article 34. Likewise, the text of claims 20-22 does not appear in the foregoing listing of claims because those claims were canceled by the Article 34 amendment.

By the present amendment, Applicant now has amended claims 3-6, 9, 11-13 and 15-18 to eliminate reference numerals and to remove multiple dependencies. Deletions and additions made by the present amendment are shown by strike-through and underlining, respectively. No new matter has been presented. Moreover, the status of the other pending claims (i.e., those not amended herein) is indicated as being either (1) “Original”, if the text of a claim is identical to that of a claim of the same number found in the originally filed International Application or (2) “Canceled” if a claim of the same number was part of the originally filed International application, but was deleted by the Article 34 amendment.

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to calculation of the application filing fee and examination on the merits. An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4233. A DUPLICATE OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4233. A DUPLICATE OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 11, 2005

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